



# The Carolina DX Association

Bulletin

OCTOBER 1983

Issue 10

DX INFORMATION EXCHANGE WEDNESDAY 0030Z 147.18

## SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING

The dinner meeting held at the Herford Barn was a huge success thanks to all the hard work by WA4VCC. It was a fun evening with an excellent slide show by N4ZC followed by the election of the following officers for the 1984 year:

President: Ted Goldthorpe, WA4VCC

Vice Pres.: Roger Burt, N4ZC

Sec.-Tres.: Gary Bader, KD4RH

Bulletin Editor: Murf Ratteree, W4WMQ

Net Manager: Larry Sossoman, K4CEB

#####

## Malpelo Island (HKØ) by Bob Winn, W5KNE

Malpelo Island is located in the Pacific Ocean at 3 degrees 51'07"N 81 degrees 35'40"W, about 270 miles off the coast of Colombia, the country to which it belongs. Malpelo is an uninhabited, inhospitable rock rising some 1235 feet above the ocean. Generally, very little has been written about Malpelo, mainly because the island has never been inhabited, is of no commercial value and landing on the island by conventional means is extremely hazardous. Interest in the island is restricted to the dedicated scientist and an occasional group of amateur radio operators.

The origin of the name Malpelo is unknown, but "mal pelo" in Spanish literally means "bad hair". However, an early visitor to the island, Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, writing in the January 1945 issue of *Natural History*, prefers to believe the name means "bad head of hair" or possibly "bald". The latter is probably more appropriate, since the island is virtually devoid of vegetation. Only a few isolated patches of grass can be found on the island and adjacent rocks.

Malpelo is about one mile long by about a half mile wide. Geologists who have studied the island estimate the island may have been eight to ten times larger than its present size. Its diminishing size can be blamed on the constant wave action against its steep shores and cliffs. The island has three peaks, the highest of which rises to 1235 feet. The sides of the island are extremely steep and rugged with no beaches for landing. Rough water coupled with the island's steep slope make getting from a boat to shore and returning extremely difficult and dangerous. In the past, several people have suffered broken bones while attempting to land on the island.

Nothing is known about the discovery of the island, but it was possibly the first of the islands situated along the South American coast to be discovered by early seamen. Malpelo was first shown on a map of Peru in 1530. It appears on a parchment map of the world of 1550 and was mentioned in dispatches as early as 1542.

Dr. Murphy described Malpelo as ... the barest monolith of its size that ... he ... had ever seen. The skyline, the arches, battlements, and the caves at sea level were spectacular and fantastic.... It looked from different aspects like a castle, a battleship, or a smoking volcano, the last illusion being due to misty streamers that clung to its summit.

Animal life on the island consists of the ever-present sea birds and several species of lizards and crabs. A group of scientists who visited the island in 1972 refused to spend any nights on the island. They preferred to risk life and limb during landing and leaving the island rather than spend the night ashore. Perhaps the numerous lizards and crabs that inhabit the island were the cause of this. Dr. Murphy's description of the island's land crabs may be of interest: Even more ghoulish in appearance were the land crabs, fat and bloated-looking creatures with shells of ghostly white. They may be quite harmless toward human beings, yet they seem to eye a visitor with an intent that grows uncomfortable. If you sit still long enough, the crabs will move up closer and closer, as if with whetted appetite, and I have a feeling that they would make the night miserable for anyone who had to sleep ashore. [ ]

Malpelo, HKØTU should be on the air as you read this bulletin. They are expected to be on through the 16th. With 20 operators working three stations no one should have any problems. QSL via HK3DDD.

### DX AND QSL INFO.

As most of you know VE7BC ceased SSB operation from BY1PK after about 1200 contacts. The JA's have permission to visit but nothing yet on operating. If you have Palmyra work Jarvis next month anyway---possible separate country status. KH5K is rumored for two days in Nov. XU1SS is good for DXCC. Now heard on 14.195 at about 1100Z transceive.

HB9AAX/ET3 at 14.001 about 2100Z---SV0AA on 1.833 0200 - 0430---3B9FK on 14.023 from 0300---9L1DR at 21.278 from 1830Z---VP8ALD S. Orkneys on 14.210, 21.305, 28.540 between 1500 & 0400.---5V7NG at 14.253 about 2100Z---U0Y still on for Oct./Nov.---3D2ZM 10-15 to 11-7---Lord Howe for CQ WW---KP5 in Jan.---Kermadec in Feb.---Clipperton in March or April---Good openings on 10 in the morning. 73's and GUD DX

FLASH: 1S1CK will not count for DXCC.

### CQ WW CONTEST

Everything is progressing nicely as CDXA prepares to put on a major effort from N4ZC's QTH for this contest. The number of operators looks good at this point. We would, however, like to solicit "spotters". Those of you that do not have the time to participate at Roger's or perhaps lack any contest experience, can be of great assistance by listening on the bands and calling out via two meters what you hear. Someone at N4ZC's will let you know what they need and the band. If you would be interested in taking part as a spotter please let either N4ZC or WA4VCC know in advance.

#####

For the last three weeks we have been taking check-ins on the Wed. night net. Please join us in order that we may have more input and also, we like to know who's out there.



**The Carolina DX  
Association**

Hugh Campbell  
1409 Cambridge Ave.  
Gastonia, N.C. 28052

Ken Boyd WA4UNZ  
202 Horseshoe Circle  
Fort Mill, S.C. 29715

